

Mentor leases school land for new detention basin

by IDALITA RASO

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MENTOR - City council approved a measure that will allow a new detention basin in Ward 3 to move forward at its Oct. 18 meeting. The city made a lease agreement with Mentor Schools to allow the city use of the property behind Bellflower School to build a 14-acre detention basin.

The proposed basin would prevent Two Town Ditch, which drains about 800 acres in Ward 3, from overflowing during heavy rains and provide relief for sanitary sewer backups as well.

The agreement is renewable every 10 years and the school district can opt out at any time. The city has the first right of purchase, if school leaders decide to sell the land.

When the detention basin is not in use, it will double as a recreational field.

In other council business:

The Beautification Committee recognized Mentor's best gardens. Chairman Linda Brown awarded the 2011 winners from each of the city's four wards, as well as one business. Each of the winners received a plaque for their garden.

The 2011 winners were: Cathy May-Krebs (Ward 1), Michael and Beverly Albee (Ward 2), Norman and Natalie Brobst (Ward 3), and Rich and Debbie Mills (Ward 4). The garden winner in the business district went to the Marine Corps League's Gunny's Hall.

Brown also thanked the volunteers at Gunny's Hall for planting the garden.

After the awards were given to the winners, Brown announced that she would be retiring from the Beautification Committee due to family obligations.

"I want to thank the council for allowing me to serve my community," said Brown. "It has been a pleasure to work with all those in the administration and on the council."

An ordinance authorizing the city manager to enter into a contract with Specialized Construction for the application of crack sealant was approved by council. The total cost of the sealant project is \$47,145.

Assistant City Manager Anthony Zampedro asked council to approve two pavement open cut requests from Aqua Ohio at Cumberland and Danbury Court for a waterline and Heisley-Hopkins at 7365 Reynolds Rd. for a sanitary sewer service.

Zampedro addressed complaints regarding construction noises coming from demolition being done on state Route 2.

"Construction will continue for the next two weeks. We have forwarded the complaints to Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), but if we try to stop them, it will hold up the job and make the construction even longer," said Zampedro.

ODOT does not have any restrictions on their con-

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Zampedro announced the recipients of the 2011 Lake-Geauga Fast Track 50 business: Brown Aveda Institute, Carver Financial Services, Cornerstone IT, Crest Aluminum Products, Food For Thought, Francesco's Hair Salon, Fredon Corporation, HzW Environmental Consultants, Integra Enclosures, Ladies & Gentleman Hairstylists, Libra Industries, MC Sign Company, North American Coating Laboratories, ProBuilt Homes, Transfer Express, turn SiGnal and US Endoscopy.

The Lake-Geauga Fast Track 50 is a business recognition program celebrating the contributions of local companies to Lake and Geauga county economies.

Resident Carol Clement stood before council in favor of deer culling to reduce the deer population.

"In 2008, Solon's deer population was 1,500 deer. In 2009 the deer population dropped to 405 deer. In 2011 the population is now at 1,069 - almost back to where they started. The reason isn't migrating or rebound, the reason is Solon could not afford the cost of deer culling. That's why population is growing," said Clement.

Clement urged Mentor City Council not to abandon deer culling because it does work.

"Deer culling programs reduce the deer population to about the number they were 30 years ago, dramatically dropping car/deer accidents from 165 to 80," she said.

The next regular meeting of council will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1.

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struction permit and can work day and night, he said.

Mentor will celebrate Halloween on Monday, Oct. 31 from 6-8 p.m. Zampedro suggested that parents dress their children in reflective costumes. Extra policemen

will be patrolling the neighborhoods.

"Parents will need to inspect all Halloween candy and if they feel it has been tampered with, please call the Mentor Police," said Police Chief Dan Llewellyn.